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MINISTER PRENTICE ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF PATRICK E. LAROCQUE TO THE MACKENZIE VALLEY LAND AND WATER BOARD

2-2895

OTTAWA (June 18, 2007) - The Honourable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, today announced the appointment of Mr. Patrick E. Larocque to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board. Mr. Larocque was nominated by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

"Mr. Larocque has a great deal of experience working with First Nations organizations and with governments in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut," said Minister Prentice. "We look forward to his contributions in the management of lands and resources in the Northwest Territories."

Mr. Larocque has recently retired from his Nunavut-based position as Resource Management Officer with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. In that position, he processed land-use applications and conducted land use inspections. He also enforced the Territorial Lands Act, the Northwest Territories Water Act and related legislation. He has worked closely in the utilization of Crown and private lands in cooperation with First Nation and regional stakeholders.

The Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board processes applications for land and water use and distributes land use permits and water licenses in areas where settlement claims are pending. The Board is comprised of up to twenty members. Five members are drawn from each of three panels: the Gwich'in Land and Water Board, the Sahtu Land and Water Board and the Wek'eezhii Land and Water Board. Two members are nominated by regions without settled land claims, one member is nominated by the Government of the Northwest Territories and one is nominated by the Federal Government. The Chair is nominated by the Board and is later appointed by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

For further information please contact:

Minister's Office
Deirdra McCracken
Press Secretary
Office of the Honourable Jim Prentice
819-997-0002

Media Relations
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
819-953-1160

Biographical Note - Mr. Patrick E. (Pat) Larocque

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Biographical Note - Mr. Patrick E. (Pat) Larocque

Mr. Patrick E. (Pat) Larocque is committed to environmental awareness and has represented the Northwest Territories on boards and agencies at the federal and territorial levels. In his most recent role as Resource Management Officer with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in Nunavut, Mr. Larocque provided technical advice in the acquisition and disposal of Crown lands. He was the main contact for exploration companies, scientific researchers and other users of Crown Land.

Mr. Larocque's earlier positions include: Renewable Resources Officer for the Government of the Northwest Territories (1994 - 1997), Environmental Coordinator for the Métis Nation (1992 - 1994) and Fur Management Officer for the Government of the Northwest Territories (1991 - 1992).

An experienced hunter and trapper, Mr. Larocque has delivered trapper training workshops and administers the Fur Incentive and the Trap Exchange programs. In addition, he has developed public awareness campaigns about the fur industry and has developed environmental resources for schools in the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Larocque currently resides in Enterprise, Northwest Territories.

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